

REMARKS

Claims 10-18, 22-24 and 30-34 are pending. Claims 16-18 and 32-34 have been amended and claims 1-9, 19-21 and 25-29 have been cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 10-18, 22-24 and 30-34 are allowed over the prior art of record.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC S. 103

The rejected claims have been cancelled.

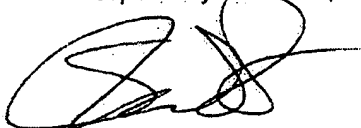
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 252-7605. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



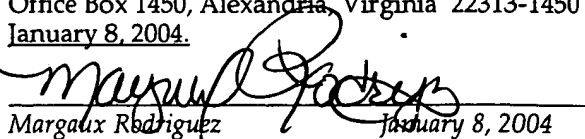
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 8, 2004.



Margaux Rodriguez

January 8, 2004